

Using Japanese public phones to call MCAS Iwakuni

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1. Types of the public phones



There are two main types of Japanese public phones; one is a dark-gray color and the other is bright green. The gray colored phone is a digital phone and the green colored one is an analog phone. However, there is no particular difference between them when making normal phone calls. The gray phone has a display and you can change it into English.

Depending on the phone, you may only be able to use a Japanese telephone card (described below). Please determine which type of phone you are using before you attempt to make a call. Public phones that do not accept coins will not have a coin insertion slot (The coin insertion slot is placed above the push buttons.).

2. Before making a call

Prepare Japanese coins or your Japanese telephone card before attempting to make a phone call. Coin operated phones only accept 10-yen coins and 100-yen coins. You must prepare the proper amount of coins (Please refer to the rough calling rate described below). When you insert several 10-yen coins and there is time left, the change (10-yen coins) will be returned into the change return (placed on the right side under the phone). When you insert 100-yen coins, even if there is time left, no change will be returned.

You can use only NTT-issued telephone cards (NTT is a Japanese telephone company). There are two kinds of the telephone cards; one is labeled as “105 rate” (valued at 1,050 yen and costing 1,000 yen), the other is labeled as “50 rate” (valuing 500 yen and costing 500 yen). You can obtain these telephone cards at a KIOSK near by the public phone. Only minutes used will be charged into the telephone card and the card will be returned when you have completed your call. Please don’t walk away without taking your telephone card.

Phone number

Calling within Japan: Dial the number with the area code. You can call from any public phone.

Example:

Call the MCAS Iwakuni operator at 0827-79-1110

Call the staff duty officer at 0827-79-4001

Calling to U.S.: You cannot make an international phone call from all public phones. Public phones that can make an international calls show 「International & Domestic」 on the display. You can make an international call with 10-yen coins, 100-yen coins, and telephone cards. (International calling rates are significantly more than domestic. Ensure you prepare enough coins or telephone cards.)

Example:

Call 0(800)-333-4636 using 001-010-1-(800)-333-4636 or 0033-010-1-(800)-333-4636

“001” or “0033” is the Japanese international phone company’s number. “010” after these numbers is the international recognition number.

3. How to use public phones

1. Pickup handset.
2. Insert coins (10-yen coins or 100-yen coins) or a telephone card.
3. After you hear the dial tone, dial the phone number.
4. If you hear a Japanese announcement, it usually means the wrong number. Make sure the phone number is correct and try again.
5. After completing the conversation, hang up the phone.

If you hear a beep sound during the conversation, it is a signal that your call is going to end. You have to deposit additional funds (10-yen coins, 100-yen coins, or another charged telephone card). When the card is empty, it will be returned.

You can use a combination of coins and telephone cards if the phone accepts coins.

4. Estimated calling rates

Below is a description of estimated calling rates (from public phone to general phone) from various places in Japan to MCAS Iwakuni. This is just a rough estimate. Rates may be significantly different.

Tokyo-Narita Airport (NRT) to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 8.5 seconds ~14 seconds

100 yen 85 seconds (1 min. 25 seconds) ~140 seconds (2 min. 20 seconds)

Tokyo-Haneda Airport (HND) to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 8.5 seconds ~14 seconds

100 yen 85 seconds (1 min. 25 seconds) ~140 seconds (2 min. 20 seconds)

Kansai International Airport (KIX) to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 8.5 seconds ~14 seconds

100 yen 85 seconds (1 min. 25 seconds) ~140 seconds (2 min. 20 seconds)

Shin-Osaka JR train station to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 8.5 seconds ~14 seconds

100 yen 85 seconds (1 min. 25 seconds) ~140 seconds (2 min. 20 seconds)

Hiroshima Airport (HIJ) to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 11 seconds ~18 seconds

100 yen 110 seconds (1 min. 50 seconds) ~180 seconds (3 min.)

Hiroshima JR train station to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 17 seconds ~21 seconds

100 yen 170 seconds (2 min. 50 seconds) ~210 seconds (3 min. 30 seconds)

Iwakuni JR train station to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 60 seconds ~80 seconds

100 yen 600 seconds ~800 seconds

Shin Iwakuni JR train station to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 60 seconds ~80 seconds

100 yen 600 seconds ~800 seconds

Fukuoka Airport (FUK) to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 8.5 seconds ~14 seconds

100 yen 85 seconds (1 min. 25 seconds) ~140 seconds (2 min. 20 seconds)

Hakata JR train station to MCAS Iwakuni

10 yen 8.5 seconds ~14 seconds

100 yen 85 seconds (1 min. 25 seconds) ~140 seconds (2 min. 20 seconds)

When making a phone call to a cell phone, the calling rate will depend on the cell phone company. (Generally, it will be higher than the charge to a general phone.)

5. Note

Shinkansens (or “bullet trains”) have green public phones. However, they only accept telephone cards. A telephone card vending machine should be available near the phone. Most of the telephone cards in the vending machine on Shinkansens are the 105 rate (valued at 1,050 yen and costing 1,000 yen).

You can use both 50 rate and 105 rate cards for the phones inside the Shinkansen.